

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) A process for the continuous wet granulation of a powder material, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an apparatus comprising multiple intermeshing screws,
- (b) feeding a powder material to a first transport zone of the apparatus, the first transport zone comprising a section of each screw where the blades of one screw are parallel with the blades of the other screw,
- (c) feeding a granulating liquid to said first transport zone,
- (d) continuously advancing said powder material and said granulating liquid from said first transport zone to an agglomeration zone downstream of said first transport zone for agglomerating said wet powder material,
- (e) transporting said agglomerated material from said agglomeration zone to a second transport zone means downstream of said agglomeration zone for producing granules, said second transport zone having an aperture positioned collinearly to said transport zone, and
- (f) directly discharging said granules from said second transport zone through said aperture.

46. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, further comprising the step of continuously advancing said agglomerated material from said agglomeration zone to said second transport zone through one or more

combinations of an additional intermediate transport zone followed by an additional intermediate agglomeration zone.

47. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said first transport zone is a twin screw.

48. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein the residence time of said powder material in said combination of transport zones and agglomeration zone is in the range of 5 seconds to 180 seconds.

49. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said powder material contains a biologically-active ingredient.

50. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said powder material contains from 0.1% by weight to 99% by weight of a biologically-active ingredient.

51. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said powder material contains a poorly soluble drug.

52. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said powder material is selected from foodstuffs, catalysts, fertilizers, detergents and mineral ores.

53. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein the amount of the said granulating liquid is from 2% to 16% by weight of the powder material.

54. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, being carried out at a temperature within a range from 10°C to 50°C.

55. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, further comprising a granule drying step (g) subsequent to discharging step (f).

56. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, further comprising a granule dry milling step subsequent to discharging step (f).

57. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 49, wherein said powder material further contains one or more physiologically acceptable excipients.

58-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein said process avoids the use of a die, die block, die plate, die screen or any other similar device having the function or result of forcing the granulate to produce an extrudate of a required section by creating a specific pressure gradient in the terminal portion of said combination of transport zones and agglomeration zone.

61. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 45, wherein the process further comprises a step wherein granules of (f) are used to make tablets, effervescent granules, sachets, or filling hard capsules.
62. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 55, wherein the process further comprises a step wherein the granules of (g) are used to make tablets, effervescent granules, sachets, or filling hard capsules.
63. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 61, wherein said granules are used to make tablets.
64. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 62, wherein said granules are used to make tablets.
65. (Cancelled)
66. (Currently amended) A process for the continuous wet granulation of a poorly soluble drug, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing an apparatus comprising multiple intermeshing screws,
 - (b) feeding a poorly soluble drug in powder form to a first transport zone of the apparatus, the first transport zone comprising a section of each screw where the blades of one screw are parallel with the blades of the other screw,
 - (c) feeding a granulating liquid to said first transport zone,
 - (d) continuously advancing said poorly soluble drug and said granulating liquid from said first transport zone to an agglomeration zone downstream of said first transport zone for agglomerating said wet poorly soluble drug,

- (e) transporting said agglomerated poorly soluble drug material from said agglomeration zone to a second transport zone means downstream of said agglomeration zone for producing granules, said second transport zone having an aperture positioned collinearly to said transport zone, and
- (f) directly discharging said granules from said second transport zone through said aperture.

67. (Previously presented) The continuous wet granulation process according to claim 66, wherein the amount of the said granulating liquid is from 2% to 16% by weight of the poorly soluble drug.